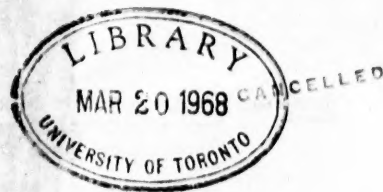




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REPORT

Of the Union Committees appointed respectively by the Wesleyan Methodist Conference, and the Methodist New Connexion Conference, of Canada; agreed to at the several meetings of said Committees, held in the Metropolitan Church, Toronto, on the 1st and 2nd days of October, 1872; on the 30th and 31st days of January, 1873, and on the 9th and 10th days of April, 1873, concluding at 10 p. m., of the last named day.

PRELIMINARY AGREEMENTS.

1. This meeting deems a Union between the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Canada and the Methodist New Connexion Church, on such principles as may be mutually agreed upon, highly desirable.
2. A General Conference should be formed, to meet once in four years, having power to make rules and regulations for the whole Church, subject to such restrictions as may be mutually agreed upon.
3. Lay representation should be included in the General Conference, in such form as may be agreed upon.
4. The General Conference should be composed of ministers and laymen in equal numbers.
5. The General Conference only, should have power to make rules and regulations for the entire Church, subject to such restrictions as may be hereafter defined and accepted.
6. The Annual Conferences should be composed of ministers only, who have travelled four years, and have been received into full connexion. They shall transact all business appertaining to the Circuits, Stations or Missions within their respective bounds, and their decision shall be final on all questions of ministerial character.
7. One or more General Superintendents should be elected by the General Conference, to hold office for a term of years corresponding to the term of the said Conference; such Superintendent or Superintendents to be set apart for the work by such form of service as may be agreed upon, and to be amenable to the General Conference for all their official acts.
8. There should be District Meetings, and they should consist of all ministers and preachers on trial within the District, with an equal number of laymen, (to be appointed as may be determined) such laymen to have the right of taking part in all proceedings, except in the examination of ministerial character.
9. That the United Conference should have the right of continuing the Meetings to be continued.
10. That the lay delegates to each General Conference should be elected by the lay members of district meetings, in such manner as may be hereafter decided, and that such members of district meetings—when such elections are to take place—be elected by the quarterly meetings.

ACCEPTED DETAILS OF GOVERNMENT.

11. The United Methodist Conferences in British America, in the form of their General Government, shall be composed of one General Conference, and several Annual Conferences.

Name of the Church.

12. The Name of the Church shall be called THE UNITED WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH OF CANADA. In case of a more general Organic Union of the Methodist Churches, it shall be called THE METHODIST CHURCH OF CANADA.

RESPECTING THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

Composition of the General Conference.

13. The General Conference shall be composed of one Minister and one Layman for every eight members of each Annual Conference. Provided nevertheless, that a fraction of three-fourths shall entitle a Conference to an additional representation. Provided always that the President of each Conference shall be one of those so selected : and also provided always that the whole number of delegates elected shall not exceed two hundred and twenty.

Provisos.

Mode of election.

14. The Ministerial members of the General Conference shall be elected by ballot.

15. The appointment of Laymen to the General Conference shall be made as follows :—

Laymen : how to be elected ; and when.

(1) The Laymen in each Annual District meeting next preceding the meeting of the General Conference shall elect from among the members of our Church within the bounds of the District, representatives to the General Conference : the number so elected to be determined by the number of Church members in the District, as compared with the entire membership within the bounds of the Annual Conference : the whole number not to exceed the number of Ministers appointed by such Annual Conference.

Laymen : how to be elected.

(2) The Lay members of the District Meeting making such appointments to the General Conference shall be elected by the Quarterly Official Meeting next preceding.

Duty of Secretaries.

16. The Secretary of each Annual Conference shall compute the number of Laymen to be appointed by each District in accordance with the principles laid down in section 15, and publish the same in the minutes of the Annual Conference next preceding such District appointment. Each delegate must be not less than twenty-five years of age and must have been a member of the church continuously during the five years next preceding the time of his election.

Qualification of Delegates.

Quorum.

17. A majority of those chosen to constitute the General Conference shall form a quorum for the transaction of business.

First meeting of General Conference, &c., &c.

18. The first General Conference shall meet on the first Wednesday after the fifteenth day of September, in the year 1874, provided that the Conferences concerned shall have approved of the plan of Union ; and thenceforward, once in four years, on the first Wednesday after the fifteenth day of September, in such place as may be decided by the General Conference.

Election of General Superintendents.

19. Each General Conference after the first, shall, on its assembling, elect by ballot without debate, one or more General Superintendents from among those nominated for that office by the Annual Conferences as hereinafter provided.

Election of Secretary.

20. Each General Conference shall, immediately after the election of the General Superintendents, elect by ballot without debate, a Secretary whose duty it shall be to keep a correct record of all proceedings, and to publish the same under the direction of the General Conference.

General Conference powers

21. The General Conference, lawfully assembled, shall have power to make rules and regulations for the Church under the following limitations and restrictions, viz :

& Limitations.

(1) They shall not revise, alter or change any article of religion, nor establish any new standards or rules of doctrine, contrary to our existing and established standards.

(2) They shall not destroy the plan of our Itinerant system.

(3) They shall not make any change in the General Rules of our Society.

Three-fourths vote.

22. Any act of the General Conference involving constitutional changes, shall be

come law, only when it secures a majority of three-fourths of the members of the General Conference, who may be present and vote thereon.

23. Any act of the General Conference affecting the rights and privileges of the Annual Conferences, shall become law, only, when it secures a majority of two-thirds of the members of the General Conference, who may be present and vote thereon, and also a majority of the members of the several next ensuing Annual Conferences, who may be present and vote thereon. Rights of Annual Conferences guarded.

24. The General Conference by a vote of two-thirds of its members, shall have power to increase or diminish the number, or alter the boundaries of the several Annual Conferences. Number and boundaries of Annual Conferences.

25. The General Conference shall appoint a Special Committee, which shall deal with questions of General Conference interests, in the interval between one General Conference and another. Special Committee.

26. Toward meeting the expenses of the First General Conference, a collection shall be made throughout our whole work, and the Annual Conferences shall fix the time when such collection shall be made within their respective bounds. Expenses: how to be met.

RESPECTING GENERAL SUPERINTENDENTS.

27. General Superintendents, one or more, shall be appointed who shall preside at the General Conference, travel through the entire connection, preside at the Annual Conferences and their committees, and exercise a general supervision over the whole work. If two or more General Superintendents be appointed, they shall have co-ordinate powers and jurisdiction, but the senior General Superintendent present shall open and organize each General Conference. Duties of General Superintendents. Co-ordinate Jurisdiction.

28. For the present, each General Superintendent shall reside within the boundaries of the Conference electing him; but in the future, the General Conference shall designate the place of residence, having regard to the above mode of allocation. Residence.

29. After the first General Conference the election of the General Superintendents shall be made by the General Conference from those nominated by the Annual Conferences. Provided always that the other nominees of the Annual Conferences shall be considered alternates, so that in case of the death or disability of one or more of the General Superintendents, the vacancy or vacancies thereby occasioned, shall be filled by such alternates in the order of their seniority. From whom to be elected. Alternates.

30. The General Superintendents shall arrange among themselves the portion of the work to be visited by each from time to time as convenience or necessity may require. Arrangement of work.

31. The General Conference shall make an appropriation for salaries to each of the General Superintendents, which, together with travelling expenses, shall be provided as the General Conference may direct. Support of General Superintendents.

32. Each General Superintendent shall be amenable for his moral and religious conduct to the Annual Conference within the bounds of which he may reside. And if accused of crime or immorality, the trial shall take place in the District and locality in which the alleged crime is said to have been committed. To whom amenable.

33. The General Superintendents with the advise and consent of the Presidents of the Annual Conferences, shall appoint the time for the meeting of the several Annual Conferences. Duties in part.

34. The General Superintendents shall have power to transfer from one Conference to another: Provided always that no Minister shall be so transferred, without his consent and the consent of the Presidents of the Conferences to be affected by such change, as well as the Chairman of the District from which he is to be removed. Notice of all applications for transfer shall be given to the Chairman of the District, and the Presidents of the Conferences concerned, at least one month before the meeting of Transfer of Ministers.

such Conference, and it shall be the duty of the President of the Conference from which such transfer is to be made, to notify the General Superintendent of all such cases.

Limitations. 35. No Minister shall be transferred from one Conference to another against the will of the Conference to which it is proposed to transfer him.

Subject. 36. Each Minister transferred shall be subject to the action of the Stationing Committee of the Conference to which he may be transferred.

RESPECTING THE ANNUAL CONFERENCES.

Three Conferences named. 37. The work in the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec shall be divided into three Annual Conferences, to be known as the Ontario, Huron, and St. Lawrence Conferences.

How to be composed. 38. Each Annual Conference shall be composed of all Ministers received into full connexion and ordained, who are stationed and appointed by it.

President to be elected by ballot. 39. Each Annual Conference shall, on its assembling, elect by ballot without debate, a President, who in the absence of a General Superintendent, shall discharge all the duties of a President within the bounds of the Conference electing him.

Secretary also. 40. Each Annual Conference immediately after the election of a President shall appoint a Secretary by ballot without debate; and shall also elect the Chairmen of Districts, according to the Discipline.

To nominate General Superintendents. 41. Each Annual Conference next proceeding the meeting of the General Conference, shall nominate for General Superintendent a member of one of the Annual Conferences, and from amongst those so nominated, the General Conference shall elect one or more General Superintendents.

Provision in case of death, &c., &c. 42. In the event of the death, disability of, or occupation of the office of General Superintendent by a President of an Annual Conference, the ex-President shall immediately enter upon the duties of the Presidency and discharge them to the end of the year.

Duties as to character. 43. Each Annual Conference shall examine the character and qualifications of all Ministers and Preachers on trial within its limits, and its decisions shall be final.

Station. 44. Each Annual Conference shall station all the Ministers and Preachers within its limits according to the rules of the Stationing Committee.

Stationing Committee. 45. No change shall at present be made in the Constitution of the Stationing Committee, except that the lay members of the District Meeting shall also vote in the election of the Representatives.

President to be stationed. 46. Each President of an Annual Conference shall be stationed on a Circuit, and shall be ex-officio Chairman of the District in which he is stationed or through which he may travel. In the absence of a General Superintendent he shall fulfill all the duties of President within the bounds of the Conference by which he is appointed.

RESPECTING QUARTERLY OFFICIAL MEETINGS.

Quarterly meetings; of whom to consist. 47. The Quarterly Official Meetings shall consist of, the Ministers and Preachers on trial; the Local Preachers, the Stewards of the Circuit, the Leaders of Classes, the Superintendents of Sabbath Schools, being members of the Church; one representative from each Board of Trustees, he being a member of the Church, and also of additional representatives who may be appointed by the Societies of the Circuit, the apportionment and scale to be fixed by the May Quarterly Meetings, which also shall specify the mode by which the vote shall be taken; but such additional representatives shall not exceed the number of the Stewards on each Circuit.

Chairman. 48. The Chairman of the District, or in his absence, the Superintendent of the Circuit shall preside at the Quarterly Official Meetings.

Regular business. 49. The regular business of the Quarterly Official Meetings shall be;

1. To receive the financial returns from the several classes, and to pay the salaries, allowances, and expenses of the Ministers and Preachers.
2. To hear complaints, and to receive and try appeals.
3. At the November Quarterly Official Meeting, to appoint the Stewards of the Circuit, the number to be not less than three, nor more than seven, one of whom shall be Recording Steward, who shall keep a record of the proceedings in a book procured for that purpose. Stewards. Their number. Recording Steward.
4. At the February Quarterly Official Meeting, to recommend candidates for the Ministry. Candidates.
5. At the May Quarterly Official Meeting, to appoint a Committee, which shall meet after the Conference, to make an estimate of the amounts necessary for the family or families of the Ministers or Preachers of the Circuit, a report of which shall be made to the August Quarterly Official Meeting; and to appoint the Lay Representative or Representatives to attend the ensuing District Meeting. Committee on Estimates. Lay Representatives.
6. Where there is no Local Preachers' Meeting, to enquire into the character, gifts, labors, punctuality and usefulness of each Local Preacher by name, and, if there be no valid objection alleged and sustained, to renew their licenses. Local Preachers' Examination.
7. To examine the character of Exhorters, and annually, at the May Quarterly Meeting, to renew their licenses. Exhorters.
8. At any Quarterly Meeting, where there is no Local Preachers' Meeting, to license Local Preachers in case of necessity. Specialty.

RESPECTING LOCAL PREACHERS

50. Where there are six Local Preachers on a Circuit of three years' continuous standing, the Superintendent shall regularly meet the Local Preachers once a quarter. No person shall be put upon the plan as a Local Preacher, or be suffered to preach among us as such, except on the nomination of the Superintendent, and with the approbation of the Local Preachers' Meeting, or the Quarterly Official Meeting of the Circuit, where a Local Preachers' meeting is not held. Number to form a meeting.
51. The Superintendent at each regular Local Preachers' Meeting, or the Chairman or Superintendent at the last Quarterly Official Meeting of the Circuit, shall inquire into the religious and moral character, doctrines, ability to preach, punctuality in attending appointments, of each Preacher by name. Enquiry into character.
52. The questions proposed in the examination of the characters of Local Preachers, shall be the same as those proposed in regard to Traveling Preachers. Questions.
53. All Local Preachers shall meet in class. No exception shall be made in respect to any who may have been Traveling Ministers or Preachers in former years. To meet in class.
54. No Local Preacher shall hold Love-feasts without the consent of the Superintendent, nor in any wise interfere with his business. Limitations.
55. Whenever a Local Preacher or Exhorter removes from one Circuit to another, he shall obtain from the Superintendent of the Circuit a certificate of his official standing in the Church at the time of his removal, without which he shall not be received as a Local Preacher or Exhorter in other places. Certificate of Removal.
56. No Local Preacher coming to reside among us from another part of the world, although duly recommended, shall be allowed to preach or hold meetings in our Churches unless he become a member of the Church and submit to its Discipline. From other places what they must do.
57. No Minister or Preacher who has been suspended or expelled by the Conference, shall on any account be employed as a Local Preacher without the consent of the Conference. Consent of Conference.

Records. 58. The name of every Local Preacher shall be recorded on the Journals of the Quarterly Official Meeting of the Circuit in which he resides.

Located Preachers; rule respecting 59. Preachers who have been formerly in connection with the Conference, but who have located, shall be subject to all the regulations affecting Local Preachers, and when charged with immorality shall be proceeded against as other Local Preachers. The Superintendent of the Circuit shall report the case to the District Meeting.

From other Methodist Churches; how to be received. 60. Should any Local Preacher belonging to any other body of Methodists make application to be received into our Church, the Chairman of the District or Superintendent of the Circuit, in concurrence with the Quarterly or Local Preachers' Meeting of the Circuit on which such Local Preacher shall reside, is authorized to receive him, after having inquired into his qualifications and all the circumstances of his case.

RESPECTING CIRCUIT STEWARDS.

Qualifications. 61. Let them be men of solid piety, who both know and love the Methodist doctrine and discipline, and of good natural and acquired abilities to transact the temporal business.

Appointed; how and when. 62. They shall be appointed by the vote of the November Quarterly Official Meeting, the Superintendent nominating.

Duties. 63. It shall be the duty of Stewards to take an exact account of whatever has been collected for the support of Ministers and Preachers in the Circuit; to make an accurate return of every expenditure of money, whether to the Minister, the Preacher, the sick, or the poor; to seek the needy and distressed, in order to relieve and comfort them; to inform the Ministers or Preachers of any sick or disorderly persons; to attend the Quarterly Meetings of their Circuits; to give advice, if asked, in planning the Circuit; to provide the elements for the Lord's Supper; to write circular letters to the Societies in the Circuit to be more liberal if need be; to let them know, when occasion requires, the state of the temporal concerns at the last Quarterly Meeting; to fill up the Circuit schedules correctly; and to be subject to the President, the Chairman of their District, and the Ministers and Preachers of their Circuit.

Accountable. 64. The Stewards shall be accountable for the faithful performance of their duties to the Quarterly Official Meeting of the Circuit.

Number. Nomination. Appointment. 65. On each Circuit, there shall be not less than three, nor more than seven; one of whom shall be the Recording Steward, who shall be nominated by the Superintendent, and appointed by the meeting.

Provision in case of incapacity. 66. When a Recording Steward of a Circuit becomes incapacitated for the duties of his office, the Superintendent of the Circuit shall have authority to appoint another of the Stewards to that office until the next Quarterly Meeting, when his place shall be supplied according to discipline.

RESPECTING SOCIETY MEETINGS.

Principal object. 67. Society Meetings shall be held in all our Circuits, wherever it is practicable, once a quarter, and the principal object of these meetings shall be the spiritual edification of the Church.

RESPECTING FINANCIAL ECONOMY.

THE GENERAL MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

One Fund. 68. All the moneys raised for Missionary purposes in the several Conferences of the United Churches shall form one General Mission Fund.

Central Board. 69. There shall be a Central Missionary Board for the management of the Missionary Fund, which shall meet annually.

Composed, of whom, Laymen, by whom 70. This Board shall be composed, for the present, of the General Superintendents; the President of each Annual Conference; one Minister annually elected from each Annual Conference; the chief Officers of the Missionary Society, and an equal

number of Laymen, of whom one shall be appointed by the Laymen of each Annual Conference Missionary Committee, and the others by the Laymen of the General Conference.

71. The duties of this Committee shall be to review the Missionary work and Duties, apportion the funds committed to them, to the respective Conferences according to their necessities.

72. Vacancies occurring in the Central Missionary Board shall be filled by the Vacancies General Conference Special Committee.

73. The General Conference shall appoint the Officers of the Missionary Society, Officers who shall be ex-officio members of the Central Missionary Board.

74. All Foreign Missions now existing or that may hereafter be established, shall be under the direction of the General Conference. ^{Foreign Mis-} ^{sions and Mis-} ^{sonaries.} But all Missionaries must be connected with some Annual Conference, and be amenable to such Conference for their conduct in all respects.

75. There shall be within the bounds of each Annual Conference a Local Mission- ^{Local Com-} ^{mittee.} ary Committee constituted as the General Conference may determine.

RESPECTING OTHER CONNEXIONAL FUNDS.

76. It is deemed desirable as soon as legal and other difficulties can be removed, ^{Amalgama-} ^{tion desirable.} to amalgamate the different funds of the United Church and to place them under the management of a Central Board or Boards.

77. The Superannuated Preachers' Annuitant Society of the New Connexion ^{Superannuat-} ^{ed and Annuit-} ^{ant Funds.} Conference, and the Superannuated Ministers' Fund of the Wesleyan Conference be amalgamated, and all claimants on the New Connexion Fund be placed on the same footing as Wesleyan Ministers, and receive from the Superannuation Fund of the United Church according to the scale laid down in the Constitution of the Superannuated Ministers' Fund of the Wesleyan Conference.

78. The Members of this Committee connected with the Wesleyan Methodist ^{Recommendation} ^{respecting} ^{New Connex-} ^{ion Ministers.} Church recommend to the Board of Management of their Superannuated Ministers' Fund, to take into their most favorable consideration the cases of those Ministers of the New Connexion Church who are not members of their Annuitant Society, in order to constitute them claimants on the Superannuation Fund of the United Church.

79. Respecting the Missionary Fund, the Contingent Fund, the Church Relief Other Funds, Fund and the Children's Fund, the Committee is of opinion that no difficulty exists to prevent an immediate and perfect amalgamation of the same.

80. Whenever Connexional Funds are organized or amalgamated, their manage- ^{Future mana-} ^{gement.} ment shall be entrusted to a Board or Boards constituted by the General Conference similarly to the Missionary Board.

RESPECTING EDUCATIONAL AND THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTIONS.

81. The publishing interests of the United Church shall be under the direction of Institutions. the General Conference.

82. The General Conference shall appoint the Editor or Editors and the Book Editors. Steward or Book Stewards.

83. The General Conference shall determine the number and character of our ^{General Con-} ^{ference autho-} ^{ity in refer-} ^{ence to.} Educational Institutions, and shall prescribe the manner of forming the Governing Boards of all Universities and Theological Schools. The General Conference shall also prescribe a Course of Study for all Candidates for the Ministry.

MISCELLANEOUS RESOLUTIONS.

Distinct community in future.

Indebtedness to Parent Bodies acknowledged.

Prayer.

84. In the event of Union between the Wesleyan Conference and the Methodist New Connexion Conference in Canada, it is understood that the United Church shall constitute a distinct community, connected with the Wesleyan Methodist and Methodist New Connexion Churches in England, only by fraternal ties; nevertheless this Joint Committee is constrained to express its deep and grateful sense of indebtedness to the Parent Bodies in England for their liberal assistance and fraternal care, during the many years of our past history; and we devoutly pray that upon them, as upon ourselves, may rest continually the blessing of God, guiding us to such decisions and labors as may promote the evangelization of the world and extend the glory of the Redeemer's name.

Thanks to Rev. Dr. Punshon.

85. The cordial thanks of this United Committee are presented to the Rev. W. Morley Punshon, LL. D. for his efficient services, and cordial co-operation with the Committee as Chairman, during our former sittings.

Thanks to Rev. Dr. Evans.

86. This United Committee cannot separate without expressing its hearty thanks to the Rev. Dr. Evans, the respected Chairman of this meeting, for his impartiality in the Chair, and his very great kindness and consideration during the deliberations of this Committee, whereby harmony has been promoted, and success so far has attended our labors.

Resolutions to be arranged and printed.

87. These resolutions on the subject of Union between the Wesleyan Methodist and Methodist New Connexion Churches in Canada, adopted by their Committees on Union, shall be arranged by the Secretaries and printed, to be submitted to the separate Conferences; the expenses to be shared by the two Conferences.

Thanks to Secretaries.

88. The cordial thanks of the Union Committees are presented to the excellent Secretaries, the Rev. Wm Scott and Robert Wilkes, Esq., M. P., for their arduous and able services rendered in connection with the several meetings of this Committee.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Toronto, April 10th, 1873.

WILLIAM SCOTT,
ROBERT WILKES, } SECRETARIES.

